

City Swears In Mounted Patrol

An Oakland Police Mounted Patrol for service in the hill and park areas has been formed and the nucleus sworn in as special officers.

Dr. Galen H. Drury, president, said the patrol will be trained to take an active police responsibility and for action in all types of emergencies in which the physical conditions and topography make the use of horses or foot patrols more practicable.

Dr. Drury said the hill and park areas are being infiltrated with persons using firearms indiscreetly and without authority, creating a hazard to horsemen and others out for recreation.

ASSIST IN SEARCHES

The patrol also will assist in hunts for missing persons. It would serve in time of disaster, when communications may be disrupted.

Two-way horse radios are to be sought to assist the patrol in its assignments.

It also will serve as a parade unit for civic occasions.

OATH CEREMONY

Mayor Clifford E. Rishell administered the oath of office to the patrol members at a ceremony Friday night. Chief of Police Lester Divine and Sgt. Guy Skelton are among the members.

The group includes Fred Anderson, Stanley Cosca, Glenn Fisher, Charles Hall, Ray Haneberg, H. W. Ludolph, Don W. Nicholson, secretary-treasurer; William Patton, Harry Peckham, vice-president; Ted Sibert, Ray Theobald, Burton Thomas, and Al Upton.

Police Horse

TRD MAY 6 - 1952

Show June 1st

Oakland's Police Mounted Division will hold its second annual horse show on June 1, at Graham's Arena, Redwood Road and Skyline Boulevard.

Featured attraction of the show will be Jose de La Torre, known as "El Coyote," according to Charles Hall, who will have charge. Scheduled to entertain also are Scotty Black and his talented daughter, Sandy.

The mounted division was organized in 1950 by Police Chief Lester J. Divine to protect the hill areas of the city. It is composed of business men who donate their time. Each member has completed a course in police training.

TRD JAN 21 1952 NO. 21

Police Unit Officers

Dr. Galen H. Drury, executive officer, and Ray Haneberg, adjutant, of the Oakland Police Department's Mounted Division have been retained as presiding officers for 1952.

Mounted Police To Present Show

Third annual horse show of the Oakland Police Mounted Unit will be held Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. in Graham's Arena, Skyline Boulevard and Redwood Road.

Proceeds from the show will be used to send underprivileged children to summer camps.

Junior riders will take part in Saturday's show. Some of the finest horses and riders in Northern California will compete in Sunday's performance.

Oakland Police Mounted Unit Opens Horse Show Saturday

Postponed last week because of rain, the third annual horse show and competition of the Oakland Police Department's mounted unit will be held Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. at Graham's Arena, Skyline Boulevard and Redwood Road.

Junior horsemen will perform in the Saturday events, the mounted unit announced. Young-

sters from seven years of age through those in their 'teens have entered the competitions.

Jumpers and western trail classes are scheduled in the senior events Sunday. A number of novelty numbers are also programmed.

Proceeds from the events will benefit a summer camp program for underprivileged children.

Officers Elected By Mounted Police

James Kecz has been elected captain of the Oakland Police Mounted Division, an auxiliary unit which patrols the hill area.

Captain Kecz succeeds Harry Peckham, who resigned the post.

Other new officers are Jack Guillory, lieutenant; Burton Thomas, sergeant and secretary-treasurer, and Cliff Northum, sergeant.

The election was held under the supervision of Chief Lester Divine and Sgt. Fred Eytel of the Oakland Police Department.

Mounted Police Captain Named

JACK GUILLORY will head the Oakland Mounted Police Division during 1954, succeeding James Kegy as captain, according to an announcement by Chief of Police Lester J. Divine, supervisor for the organization.

Guillory will be assisted during the coming year by Russell King, appointed to the position of lieutenant, and Cliff Northum, Giles Hunter and Eric Lengsteat, sergeants.

Burton Thomas will continue in his office as secretary-treasurer for the division.

Appointments of the new officers was made at a regular meeting of the group held early this week.

CITY COUNCIL WILL HONOR MOUNTED POSSE TONIGHT

The 25 members of the Oakland Police Department's mounted posse will be honored by the Oakland City Council at a dinner at 7 p.m. today in the Sea Wolf Restaurant.

Police Chief Wyman Vernon said the posse is responsible for a marked decrease in the crime rate in the hill area.

The chief noted that members of the posse, who are Oakland businessmen, put in 300 man-hours a month policing the hill area on holidays and weekends.

"This isn't a social organization," Vernon said. "They are real policemen."

TR E FEB 20 1957

HORSEBACK COPS TO SHIFT SCHEDULES

Mounted patrol schedules in the Oakland hills will be revised for the winter season at tomorrow's meeting of Oakland volunteer reserves at the Police Academy, 45th Ave. and Bond St.

Capt. Ted Albro will be in charge of the meeting of the men who furnish their own horses and trailers each weekend to patrol the wooded paths near the picnic areas and bridle trails inaccessible to police cars.

Mounties to Make Change In Schedules

Oakland's Mounties, the volunteer horseback patrol which "covers" the hill areas, will revise its entire schedule at its meeting at the Police Academy, Bond St. and 45th Ave. at 8 p.m. Wednesday.

New rules and regulations under which each man must own his horse, saddle and trailer will be among the new business to come up for consideration, according to Police Sgt. David Moohr, deputy director of civil defense law enforcement services.

Detailed maps of Bay Area parks to facilitate search for missing persons by the mounted police are to be distributed at the meeting. Jack Marlin, newly elected head of the mounted police, will preside as its captain for the first time at the Wednesday meeting.

Oakland's gift horses

JAN 19 1982
Oakland City Hall officials are considering the creation of one of the oldest and most successful forms of crime deterrence - a mounted police unit.

The streets of Oakland have not seen police on horses since the cruiser sent them back to the stables 68 years ago.

Horses may be enticing to children and a more enjoyable means of travel, but cars could not be beat for consistent speed. And installing a radio in a horse was impossible.

Still, Oakland police and developers analyzing the problem of security in the downtown district have come up with the horse patrols as a possible solution to downtown policing problems.

It is a solution other cities across the country have also come to embrace.

Formed in the 1930s, the U.S. Park Department mounted patrol now has over 50 mounts divided between its stations in New York City, Washington, D.C., and San Francisco.

The Philadelphia Police Department claims to have the largest mounted force, with 62 horses in the city and 18 in the park areas. Mounted patrols were disbanded in 1952 because radio communication between mounts was poor, but funding restored the unit in 1972.

A 10 percent budgetary cut-back last year forced the po-

lice department in Seattle to transfer police from saddles to car seats.

But this move is cautiously being described as "in limbo" since a sizable number of residents began lobbying and fundraising efforts to maintain the nine-horse unit.

Oakland council members say they are likely to approve the proposal for a three-horse unit because it is not only "colorful and exciting," but its first-year's tab will be picked up by downtown developers, members of the one-month-old Central Business District Security Association.

Like police in Washington, Philadelphia, and Seattle, the Oakland Police Department and the developers praise the horses for their public relations value in engendering good communications between police and citizens.

The three horses can easily maneuver in and out of places that a vehicle cannot.

Cost efficiency studies show that caring for the three horses would run about \$14,000 a year, certainly not enough to buy and run a cruiser for one year.

Through his increased height, a horseman has a better chance than a cruiser-bound officer to see crime.

And in a crowd, an officer on horseback can control more people than one officer on foot.

Oakland should not look this gift horse in the mouth.

Oakland council OKs JAN 27 1982 mounted police patrol

The Oakland City Council Tuesday night unanimously approved the city's first mounted horse patrol in nearly 70 years.

Two officers on horseback will patrol from Lakeside Park down Broadway to Jack London Square, beginning Feb. 1. The initial costs of the horse patrols are being borne by private businesses, including Asian Holdings Inc., the Hong Kong-based developers of the proposed 68-story downtown tower.

Horses added to cop beat

FEB 2 1982
By Harry Harris
Tribune Staff Writer

For the first time in almost 70 years, police horses Monday walked a beat in downtown Oakland.

"Everything old isn't bad. Looking back, some of the old ways and means of approaching problems are effective," said Mayor Lionel Wilson during a carrot-in-cheek swearing-in ceremony in front of City Hall.

The horses joined the

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ranks of the Police Department as part of a program to enhance police presence in the downtown and neighborhood commercial districts.

Besides the mounted patrol, city officials greeted the first woman officer to ever walk a beat in Oakland and got their first look at motorized carts that will carry officers around

the city's business districts.

The mounted patrols and three new foot officers — two of whom resumed the long abandoned downtown night walking detail Monday night — have been in the planning stages for some time. More foot patrols are expected in the Elmhurst, Fruitvale and other business districts.

The horses will be on patrol daily

starting from Lakeside Park and working their way down Broadway to Jack London Square.

To assist the police, the month-old Central Business District Security Association has agreed to pay the \$340,000 start-up costs for the expanded coverage. The association also has agreed to pay the \$290,000 annual costs for the horses, a stable,

two Cushman carts, and the salaries of the police officers.

Jayne Strothers, a police officer for three years, will be walking the beat in the area of 19th Street and Broadway.

"I didn't think a woman would ever go (to the detail) but then again, this department is very innovative," she said.

Oakland police to patrol again on horseback

By Harry Harris
Tribune Staff Writer

JAN 25 1982

Come Feb. 1, when they get ready to go out to patrol the streets of Oakland, police officers Ken Douglas and Jim Smith will saddle up rather than buckle up.

That's the day the two veteran officers are to turn in their patrol cars and become Oakland's first mounted horse patrol in nearly 70 years.

The City Council is expected to approve the

still takes time," said
cept of horse patrols
barked the imagina-

plan Tuesday.

For years the Police Department has been studying the possibility of reviving the horse patrol, which was phased out about 1915 with the advent of the automobile.

The success that San Francisco and other cities have had with mounted patrols — coupled with the financial and moral support of the business community in Oakland — led to the decision to gallop ahead last month.

Smith, 31, an eight-year veteran of the de-

The horses to be purchased for the patrol are both Morgan geldings. One is an 8-year-old named Echo and the other a 5-year-old

reduce the rate of street crime in Oakland.

"They project a feeling of confidence and their size and capability are unquestioned," he said.

partment, and Douglas, 39, a 13-year veteran, seemed natural choices as the first new mounties.

Smith has owned four horses and Douglas grew up on a farm and while in high school worked for a veterinarian who specialized in horse care.

The two officers were graduated Friday from a mounted patrol training program con-

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Page B-1
conducted by the San Francisco Police Department in Golden Gate Park. They marked the end of the course in traditional fashion: by being tossed, fully dressed, into a brimming horse trough.

The training ranged from crowd control to barn management. But the most important part, according to the officers, was getting used to riding on a daily basis.

"They can tell you how it's

done, but it still takes time," said Douglas.

The concept of horse patrols has also sparked the imaginations of police command officers, who have been busy sizing up horses and making plans for their stable, which will be near Fairyland.

Startup costs, which are being borne by private businesses in the city, are expected to reach \$37,000, and the annual cost is planned to be \$15,000.

The horses to be purchased for the patrol are both Morgan geldings. One is an 8-year-old named Echo and the other a 5-year-old dubbed TNT.

The patrol's daily route will take them from Lakeside Park down Broadway to Jack London Square. The horses also will be available for use in Arroyo Viejo and Knowland parks, department spokesmen said.

Deputy Police Chief Tom Donohue said the horses should help

reduce the rate of street crime in Oakland.

"They project a feeling of confidence and their size and capability are unquestioned," he said.

Even Police Chief George T. Hart has been infected by a slight case of horse fever.

Hart was raised on a farm in the San Joaquin Valley, and when asked if he might one day mount up himself, he replied: "Oh, at one point I'll probably be persuaded."

Leading horse from water no easy task

By Del Lane
Tribune Staff Writer

SEP 2 1982

A horse fell into Lake Merritt Wednesday afternoon, and all the Oakland Police Department's men could not get it out.

Worse yet, it was a police horse, and a policeman was on it.

There is no obvious solution to removing a horse from a lake, not when the 1,400-pound animal is standing on a rocky bottom five feet below the surrounding sidewalk. Getting the policeman out was no problem.

But if a professional horse handler from Fresno had not arrived to volunteer his services, the police might still be looking for a solution.

No one knows for sure how the horse got into the lake in the first place. All the police can say is that at about 3:30 p.m., three mounted patrolmen — officers Anthony Jovino, Ken Douglas and Jim Smith — were riding in file along the edge of the lake in the 2100 block of Lakeside Drive.

Suddenly, Jovino and Douglas heard something behind them, and turned to see Smith fighting

to control his rearing mount, Justice, before horse and rider pitched backward into the water.

Something had apparently startled the horse, but since Smith, 31, was under heavy sedation at Merritt Hospital today with a severely strained and possibly fractured hip, no one knew just what it was.

Two moving trucks pulled up and offered the use of their equipment.

They placed a metal ramp in the water, and Justice, stumbling and balking over the rocky bottom, was maneuvered to the bottom end. But each time he was coaxed onto the ramp, his hooves slipped on the steel surface and he toppled back into the water.

Each time the horse fell, its eyes got wilder and the men in the water got soggy.

The solution, it seemed, would be to walk the horse around the edge of the lake to a beach area near the Lake Merritt boathouse.

Justice didn't agree. He bucked Officer Douglas into the water.

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Justice vs. police and passers-by at Lake Merritt.

Somewhere in this sequence, George Potstada arrived on the scene.

Potstada, 28, owns a spread near Fresno where he has been breeding and raising horses for some 15 years. He's been living with his parents in East Oakland lately, and working in Castro Valley, because of the tight economy.

While Potstada took over the horse's head and gentled him, the others brought heavy wooden packing crates from a moving truck and set up a sort of stairway in the water.

Then, coached by Potstada, the men in the water flicked Justice's flanks with rope loops to

while Potstada urged Justice up the stairs.

After two unsuccessful attempts, the horse got its front hooves onto the movers' pads placed on the sidewalk.

Justice scrambled gamely, getting his knees up on the pads. His hindquarters churned and suddenly he was flopping onto the sidewalk and stumbling to

his feet, after two hours in the water.

He stood quivering for a moment before being led off to his stable near Children's Fairyland.

Justice was later checked by a veterinarian and was found to be suffering nothing worse than shock and a few cuts and bruises.

His condition, a police spokesman said with a straight face, was — stable.

update

LOOKING BACK...

Oakland police decide to keep horse patrol

By Harry Harris
Tribune Staff Writer

FEB 7 1983

In February 1982, six Oakland police officers traded car seats for saddles and began the city's first patrols on horseback in 70 years.

One year later, the Police Department has decided the horse patrol is an idea that should not be put out to pasture.

To be sure, the four horses — Justice, Raider, Echo and Figaro — have proved to be a public relations success.

But their effectiveness as crime deterrents and crimefighters also has made them well worth their substantial weight in alfalfa cubes and pellets, which is what they are fed twice a day.

Every day, at least two of the steeds are on patrol in the downtown section of the city or around Lake Merritt.

Although their main duties are beat patrol and traffic enforcement, Sgt. Rich Brierly, one of six officers who have become equestrians, says the horses have also figured in a fair share of arrests.

Sitting high in their saddles, the police riders have spotted many people trying to get high their own way in the shadows of Lakeside Park, and have chased them down.

Brierly also recalls a purse snatcher who found out that although you might be able to outrun a police officer, you cannot outgallop a police horse.

And Brierly still chuckles about the grand theft suspect who found himself corraled in a telephone booth by two of Oakland's cava-



Officer Jim Smith
Patrols near Lake Merritt
lary.

lary.

He said two of the horse patrolmen spotted the suspect in a phone booth at 14th Street and Broadway and, before he could flee, managed to box him in with their huge animals.

Of course, horse duty is not always just sugar and carrots.

There was the time that a tourist from Florida asked one officer to pose for a picture with his mount near the Kaiser Center on the shoreline of Lake Merritt. There was one too many requests from the photographer to back up, and both horse and rider fell into the lake.

The officer got out on his own but it took a crane to lift the horse.

And then there was the time a jaywalker claimed one of the horses had stepped on his foot, and hauled off and punched it in the face. He later was found guilty of cruelty to animals.

Brierly says it costs about \$32 a day to feed the horses, who live in a new, \$55,000 stable near Children's Fairyland. All grooming of the horses and cleaning of the stables is done by the riders.

The police officers also dispose of any manure on sidewalks or private property, sweeping the mess discreetly into a gutter or other out-of-the-way spot. At other locations the biodegradable droppings are allowed to disappear on their own.

Chief of Police George T. Hart says the public reaction to the horses has been overwhelmingly favorable, and although there are no immediate plans to increase the string, there are certainly none to scrap them.

He said the horses "fit well with the theme of Oakland's growth and development" and, perhaps most importantly, "they create a climate that makes people feel comfortable."

Some people feel so comfortable with the horses, Brierly says, that they appear to think the beasts can talk.

"You'll be sitting on top of one and people will walk up and talk to the horse," he said. "They'll hold two conversations, one with you and one with the horse."

...LOOKING AHEAD



THURSDAY — First 1983 minting of U.S. Olympic silver dollars at the U.S. Assay Office in San Francisco.

Walter Cronkite to address anniversary dinner of the Commonwealth Club of California in San Francisco.

SATURDAY — Northern California Vietnamese community begins two-day celebration of the Lunar New Year ("TET") in San Jose.

SUNDAY — Chinese "Year of the Boar" begins a second after midnight.

OCT 9 1982

Cop: He hit my horse

An Oakland man was held Friday in what could be the first arrest ever on charges of assaulting a police horse.

Officer Anthony Jovino said he was on his horse Thursday afternoon in the 1400 block of Broadway when he saw a man jaywalking.

During questioning, police said, the man became abusive and when he attempted to walk away, Jovino and Officer Ken Douglas, who also was on horseback, detained him.

As Douglas placed a handcuff on the man's hand, the man suddenly took a swing with his free hand at Jovino's horse, hitting him in the head with his fist and forearm, the officers said.

Walker Jackson, 31, was arrested for investigation of jaywalking, failure to obey a police officer and battery on a police officer, on the theory that if the horse had fallen it would have put the officer in danger.

Horse shy, so it's Justice for all

By Bethany Korwin-Pawlowska
Tribune Staff Writer

JUL 5 1982

A recent contest held to find a name for a Morgan horse donated to the Oakland police mounted patrol was won by two first-graders who independently submitted "Justice."

But Justice couldn't make it on the streets of Oakland.

"She was too shy, too skittish and untrainable," said Al Kelley, president of the Lake Merritt Breakfast Club, which also sponsored the name contest.

A good patrol horse has to like people and be able to adapt to the sights and sounds of busy city streets. Like Ferdinand the Bull, Justice had to be retired to the more peaceful setting of a field of clover.

The contest winners, Walter White of Jefferson School in Oakland and Tim Fernstrom of

Munck School in Piedmont, had already earned a picnic at Fairyland for their entire school class.

But when Justice turned out to be unsuited to police work, the mounted patrol faced a dilemma. Instead of a horse without a name, they had a name without a horse.

"We decided to call all the police horses Justice," said Lt. Pete Sarna, head of the patrol. "They all stand for Justice now."

Figaro — a handsome U.S. Park Police bay Morgan with a white blaze down his nose — came in to replace Justice.

Echo, Jubal and Figaro — all now aka (also known as) Justice — are highly trained animals who respond to voice commands under their proper names.

The three police horses and their riders patrol downtown on weekdays during daylight hours and on the weekends in Lakeside Park, where they are stabled near Children's Fairyland.

Lakeside Park home of Oakland horse patrol properly dedicated

By Marina Gottschalk
Tribune Staff Writer

AUG 28 1982

OAKLAND — It's not every horse that gets city officials, dignitaries and the public to come out to see his new home, but Jubal, Figaro, Justice and Echo are no ordinary horses.

The four are half the Oakland Police Department's Mounted Patrol.

Police Sgt. Rich Briery and officers Ken Douglas, Jim Smith, Tony Jovino and Larry Davis are the other half.

The horses' have a brand new stable on a grassy knoll, near the bandstand in Lakeside Park. The stable was dedicated Friday, with the necessary mixture of dignitaries, citizens and hors d'oeuvres.

Oakland last had a mounted patrol in 1914.

"We have a mounted patrol today for the presence of security and for the greater visibility of the officers," said Bert Bangsburg of the Oakland Economic Development Corporation who

was master of ceremonies.

George H. Williams, executive director of the Office of Economic Development and Employment, said the matter of security was raised in a meeting with The Carrian Group, one of the developers of the Trans Pacific Project, where there is an increasing number of people and more traffic.

Peter K.L. Sin, deputy president of Asian Holdings Inc., involved in the development, said his company asked downtown merchants and police to form a security association to make the neighborhood safe.

"In just over eight weeks a need was identified, a solution developed, a meeting of public and private parties was held and the solution implemented," said William Bodrug, vice president of Bramalea Ltd.

The Lake Merritt Breakfast Club co-sponsored the ceremonies and donated the horse named Justice.

Man held for hitting cop's horse freed

By Harry Harris

Oakland Tribune/Eastbay TODAY

OCT 16 1982

A Richmond man who became the first known person in Oakland to assault a police horse has been released from jail after pleading guilty to disturbing the peace.

Walker Jackson, 31, was initially charged with cruelty to animals and resisting arrest for the Oct. 7 incident and held in custody in lieu of \$5,000 bail.

Thursday, Jackson pleaded guilty to a reduced charge of disturbing the peace and was released after a Municipal Court judge gave him

credit for time served and suspended his sentence.

The cruelty to animals charge was dismissed by the district attorney's office.

Jackson was arrested on Broadway after two mounted officers tried to stop him from jaywalking.

During the arrest, police said Jackson hit one of the police horses in the face with his fist causing the horse to slip.

Officer Anthony Jovino, the rider, was able to prevent both himself and the horse from falling.

Horse given to Oakland police in memory of Reagan aide's son

By Lance Williams
Tribune Staff Writer

NOV 12 1982

Edwin Meese III stood quietly by Thursday as a group of his local friends donated a quarter-horse to the Oakland Police Department in memory of the presidential counselor's son.

Meese, longtime aide to President Ronald Reagan, is a former Alameda County deputy district attorney with a strong interest in law enforcement.

His son Scott, 19, who died in an auto crash last summer, was a fan of the Oakland Raiders football team.

Thus, Meese's Oakland friends, among them former District Attorney Frank Coakley and Superior Court Judge Carl Anderson, decided to buy

a police horse as a living memorial to Scott — and to name the animal Raider.

"I want to thank you on behalf of all the Meese family," Meese said to the group of about 100 friends gathered at Lakeside Park for the occasion. "It's good to know there will always be a Raider in Oakland, no matter what Al Davis does."

Scott, second of Edwin and Ursula Herrick Meese's three children, was born in Oakland

Coakley headed the drive that collected \$1,500 — enough to purchase both the horse and a silver plaque in the youth's memory that will hang in Raider's stall. Police Chief George Hart accepted the donation on behalf of the city.

Police officers who horse around

By Harry Harris
The Tribune

SUN JAN 27 1985

The biggest difference between patrolling on horseback and from a squad car is that "people don't pet your car," said Oakland Officer Ken Douglas. *Police div.*

In the three years since the patrols resumed in downtown Oakland, passersby have developed a fondness for the well-groomed horses and their uniformed officers.

It is not unusual to see a mother hold up her youngster to rub the nose of a patient police horse. A businessman or bag lady often will stop to chat with a mounted officer.

Douglas is one of a half-dozen officers who ride the department's three horses — Justice, Royal and Streaker.

The program, resumed in 1982 after being out to pasture almost 70 years, "is a real bridge between the police and the community," said Douglas. "Everybody likes horses. If they don't see them for a day they will be asking other officers where they are."

Sgt. Rich Brierly and Officer T. W. Johnson agreed.

"People gravitate to the horses and they have a real warmth and closeness for them. They'll come up and talk to the horse and we'll have to interpret," said Brierly.

The costs for the mounted patrol, except for the officers' salaries, are borne entirely through private donations, mostly from the Central Business District Security Association of downtown businesses and corporations.

The annual budget for the three steeds is \$14,000, a little over half of which is for the \$21 a day in alfalfa cubes and pellets they eat.

The department resumed horse patrols because of their visibility and the sense of security they seem to give people. Their effectiveness at crime-fighting has exceeded expectations.

Brierly said the horse patrols have reduced public drinking, drug transactions and other crimes in the Lakeside Park area alone by 50 percent.

People who don't know much about horses can be especially easy foils for officers, said Douglas.

He sometimes catches students cutting

See HORSES, Page D-7

school "who are always telling whoppers. I tell them the horse can tell you're lying by twitching its ears, which is really natural for them. They see the horse doing that and say 'You got me.'"

Some drug dealers in Lakeside Park believe the horses can detect narcotics.

When he rides up to startled dealers, said Douglas, "I just tell them the horse could smell it across the park."

While most of the encounters the officers have with the public are positive, there have been incidents they would rather forget.

A tourist asked an officer to pose with his horse near Kaiser Center on the shoreline of Lake Merritt. The photographer kept asking them to back up until horse and rider tumbled into the lake.

A man became so angry after accusing a horse of stepping on his foot that he slugged the horse. The man was charged with cruelty to animals but later pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace. Beginning this year, it is a felony to seriously injure a police horse. Frightening, teasing or harrasing a police horse is a misdemeanor.

Oakland's first female horseback cop saddles up

The Tribune

FRI MAR 13 1987

Oakland Police Officer Sue Rice has become the first female member of the department's mounted patrol, a move that horses used to burly 200-pound riders can appreciate.

Rice weighs just 125 pounds, which suits the horses just fine, officers agree.

Rice, 40, has been an Oakland police officer for almost six years. She has been riding horses since she was a child on her grandfather's farm in Minnesota, but never imagined her work as an inner-city police officer would put her back in the saddle.

"I feel proud that I am riding but at the same time I feel kind of shy about it," she said.

She said she loves her new assignment because she likes to ride and because "the people you come into contact with are so

*'I feel proud that I am riding
but at the same time I feel kind
of shy about it.'*

— Officer Sue Rice

positive, from suspects to regular citizens."

"They're so friendly. The horse seems to bridge any kind of gap," she said.

She will be riding Justice, a bay gelding who at 19 is one of the oldest of the department's five horses.

Rice was recruited for the mounted patrol by Sgt. Nolan Darnell, the unit's supervisor.

Darnell said he thought Rice would be a welcome addition to the unit because of her outgoing personality and her performance as a regular patrol officer, which earned praise from her bosses.

Darnell said Rice "deals well with people, maintains a positive attitude and promotes a positive image for the Police Department."

Before Rice saddled up on Monday, she was given some training at Lakeside Park near the police stables and at an equestrian center in the Oakland hills. She also spent 3½ weeks in a special mounted patrol school run by the San Francisco Police Department.

The mounted officers are part of the department's downtown walking detail. When they are not on horseback — they spend about 5½ hours a day in the saddle — they patrol their beats on foot.

Police horse 1, patrol scooter 0

TUE JUL 28 1987

Oakland law enforcement came up against a clash of technologies yesterday afternoon in the form of an encounter between a police horse and a parking-patrol scooter.

The scooter lost.

Reports were still sketchy last night, but according to police, Officer T.W. Johnson was patrolling downtown on horseback when he and his horse had a close encounter with a three-wheeled meter-minder's scoot-

er.

Somehow Johnson's stirrup became snagged on the scooter. The horse reacted predictably, Johnson wound up on the ground with minor injuries and the scooter was flipped over on its side.

The mishap occurred on the 1300 block of Broadway.

According to witnesses, the horse was not injured, but the scooter had to be towed away.

~~ORIGINAL POLICE REPORT~~
~~NOV 16 1995~~
~~11:00 AM~~
THIS IS AN AUTHORIZED VEHICLE?



"Ole", short for Oleander, a 6-year-old horse with the Oakland Police mounted division, takes a breather and parks himself in a

lot on 19th Street in Oakland while waiting for Officer John Chargin to return.

MARY F. CALVERT — Staff